



CROMER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE SIXTY-NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE
Year Ended December 31st
1953

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Cromer Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Cromer Urban District
Council

MISS REEVE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

PRINCIPAL NOTES ON THE YEAR

The estimated population at Midyear was 4,864 as compared with 4,764 in 1952.

The Birth Rate was 13.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. (England and Wales 15.5).

The Death Rate was 11.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. (England and Wales 11.4).

No death occurred in association with Childbirth.

No case of Poliomyelitis was reported.

Cromer was fortunate in that the severe storm in January caused no serious Public Health problem.

SITUATION.

Cromer is situated at about the middle of the line of sandy cliff that runs along the coast of Norfolk from Mundesley to Weybourne. Its position is elevated and healthy. Bracing winds and a small rainfall are the main features of its climate.

The Cromer Urban District is surrounded to the East, South and West by the Erpingham Rural District.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	1,158
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	4,864
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,853
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£41,556
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£159

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.					Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	34	27	61
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
					37	28	65

The Birth Rate is 13.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. (England and Wales 15.5). 6.2% of live births were illegitimate.

Still Births.					Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	1	1
					—	1	1

The Still Birth Rate is 0.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, or 1.5% of all births.

DEATHS.

The causes of death were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Cancer of the Stomach	1	1	2
Lung and Bronchial passages...	2	—	2
Breast	—	1	1
Uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic growths	1	3	4
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	3	5	8
Coronary Disease and Angina	6	8	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	1	3	4
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of the Prostate...	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
Other diseases, and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
All other Accidents	3	—	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of War ...	—	—	—
Total :	27	30	57

The Death Rate is 11.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. (England and Wales 11.4).

Diseases of the Heart accounted for 31% of all Deaths, Cancer for 18%, Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System for 14% and Respiratory Diseases for 12%.

No deaths occurred from any Infectious Disease or from any of the conditions associated with Childbirth.

No deaths occurred in a child under 1 year of age during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of Infectious Disease during the year were as follows :—

Disease :	Age Groups :							Tot.
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Chickenpox ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	6
Measles ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	4
Whooping Cough	—	1	3	7	—	—	2	13
Infectious Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Peurperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals :	1	1	5	15	—	1	6	29

Comparisons of the incidences in Cromer and in the Country as a whole is shewn in the following table, in which the second column gives the numbers of cases there would have been in Cromer if the National Rate had applied :

Scarlet Fever	...	4	7
Measles	...	4	60
Whooping Cough	...	13	17
Peurperal Pyrexia	...	1	1.2

The above figures are of interest chiefly as regards the low incidence of Measles, which followed a big epidemic last year, and the absence of Poliomyelitis.

Infectious Jaundice occurs in most localities from time to time ; it is, however, seldom severe, and few cases usually occur.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No new cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year. Three cases were added to the Register, being inward transfers from other districts.

No death occurred from Tuberculosis. The National Death Rate is 0.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The numbers on the Register have varied little for some years.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was as follows :—

			Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Male	...	...	18	2	20
Female	...	...	11	1	12
Totals :			29	3	32

In previous years the following were the corresponding totals :—

1952	...	...	29	3	32
1951	...	...	29	4	33
1950	...	...	25	4	29
1949	...	...	23	9	32

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

The arrangement whereby proprietors were invited to notify all cases of illness of doubtful origin to the Medical Officer of Health for investigation was continued. Extremely few cases were so reported.

FOOD.

All stages in the storage, distribution and handling of food are most carefully supervised and daily inspections are carried out. The suppliers and retailers in the town continue to maintain their high standard of co-operation in this important matter.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were reported during the year.

ICE CREAM.

The prescribed tests for cleanliness were satisfied.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47.

The District Council is empowered under this Act to take proceedings for the removal to hospital of sick persons under certain circumstances on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health. Action was taken in one such case during the year.

HOUSING.

At the time of writing, there are 99 live applications for houses, 74 of which are from Cromer and 25 outside the area. At least 12 of the total are urgent cases.

There are 45 live applications for bungalows, 40 of which are in Cromer and 5 outside the area.

The erection of the four houses and six bungalows on the Links Estate will do something towards relieving this housing problem. It is obvious, however, that it can only touch the fringe of our waiting lists.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers to the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health.

J. H. F. Norbury, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Wholetime ; the post is combined with that of Medical
Officer of Health for Sheringham Urban District and the
Erpingham Rural District, and Assistant Medical Officer
for these districts under the County Council.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Works Manager.

J. A. Haigh, F.F.A.S., A.M.I.S.E., Cert. R. San. Inst.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, which came into operation in 1948, Health Services are provided almost entirely by official bodies. There is a limited amount of private practice.

The official bodies are four in number :—

(1) The Norfolk Executive Council.

This provides the General Practitioner, Dental, Pharmaceutical and Ophthalmic Services.

(2) The Regional Hospital Board.

The country as a whole has been divided into Regions, and the Regions into Areas, for administrative purposes. The Cromer Urban District lies in the East Anglian District and the Cromer Area. Cromer and District Hospital is the General Hospital for the Area, and provides specialist out-patient clinics for patients from anywhere within the Area. The Sanatoria at Kelling, near Holt, are also administered by the Regional Hospital Board, as are the Fletcher Convalescent Home at Cromer and the Longacre Maternity Home at West Runton.

At present, Infectious Diseases are treated at East Dereham Isolation Hospital, a distance of some 25 miles away, and at Norwich Isolation Hospital.

(3) The County Council.

The County Council provides, through its various departments :—

- (a) The School Medical Service.
All schools in the Area are visited at least once during the year. At these visits a systematic examination of entrants, 5, 8, and 10-year-olds, and leavers is carried out; arrangements are made for the treatment of defects found. All children previously found to have defects are also examined, and any not otherwise due to be examined who appear to require it. Special examinations are made of handicapped children, where necessary in their homes.
A Minor Ailment Clinic is held fortnightly at the Local Health Office. Children not included in a school for any reason are also examined at home. Examination is also made of children when transport to school is believed necessary on medical grounds.
- (b) The Maternity and Child Welfare Service.
An Infant Welfare Centre is held fortnightly at the Local Health Office. Immunisations are carried out regularly.
- (c) Health Visiting.
All children under 5 are visited regularly in their homes by a Health Visitor. In most cases the duty of Health Visiting is carried out by the local District Nurse-Midwife. She also attends the Welfare Centre, and not infrequently assists at neighbouring ones. Children over 5 come under the supervision of the School Nurse.
- (d) Midwifery.
This is performed by the District Nurse-Midwives and the general practitioner-obstetricians. In this district the Longacre Maternity Home and Beckham House are available for confinements where domiciliary confinement is considered undesirable.
- (e) Home Nursing.
This is carried out by the District Nurse-Midwives under the Norfolk County Nursing Association, who act as Agents for the County Council.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
This is carried out by general practitioners acting for the County Council, and by the Assistant County Medical Officer. In the case of children, facilities are provided at the Infant Welfare Centre and, in the case of immunisation, at the schools as well.

(g) Ambulance Services.

These are carried out by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, acting as Agents for the County Council.

(h) General Measures for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, including the provision of Nursing Equipment.

(i) Home Helps.

(j) Mental Health Services.

(k) General Welfare Services, under the supervision of the Welfare Officer.

He is in Cromer every morning at 9 a.m. and is available for interview at that time at the Local Health Office.

(4) The Urban District Council.

The District Council is, as ever, responsible for the control of Infectious Diseases and Environmental Health and Hygiene, acting through the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Note :— Laboratory Services are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, by the Ministry of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Tabular Statement furnished by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 :—

House to House Inspections	...	...	...	...	107
Inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	20
Inspections of Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	13
Re-inspection to ascertain progress	...	...	...	...	13
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	Nil
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	37
Inspections under Factories and Workshops Acts	...	...	...	...	3
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections of Tenements	...	...	...	...	75
Inspections of Foodshops other than Dairies and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1,115
Premises Disinfected	...	...	...	...	7
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage Systems Tested	...	...	...	...	50
Committee Meetings attended	...	...	...	...	12
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	17
Legal Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	Nil
Premises found to be defective by House to House Inspection	...	...	...	...	17
Premises found defective by Workshop Inspection	...	...	...	...	1
Premises found defective by Tenement Inspection	...	...	...	...	2
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	6
Housing — No Court Action taken	...	...	...	...	Nil

In conclusion I must express my thanks to Mr. Haigh for the invaluable help he has given in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. F. NORBURY,
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	21	48	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	7	19	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	3	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL		31	68	Nil	Nil	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. In- spector (5)	By H.M. In- spector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Unreasonable temp'ture (S.3)	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (including offences relating to outwork)	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
TOTAL	60	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	60

OUT-WORKERS : Basket Making 2 Finishing 1 (Total 3)

